



RESEARCH PROTECTIONS UPDATE

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DON HRPP 2024 Year in Review

As we begin 2025, we reflect on the accomplishments of the Department of the Navy Human Research Protection Program (DON HRPP) in 2024. Our goal remains to provide exceptional service to each command HRPP through standard assessments, guidance, and oversight to ensure the highest standards of human research protections. As we look ahead, DON HRPP is committed to continuing the support of commands to improve their HRPP and is dedicated to helping commands achieve their goals and overcome challenges. We look forward to a successful 2025.

2024 Highlights

- Conducted site assessments, assist visits, and courtesy visits
- Improved command visit reports
- Developed a new questionnaire to improve the assist visit process
- Launched the “Command Learn and Share Series”
- Initiated the SECNAVINST 3900.39E CH-1 Revision Project
- Implemented the “Get Real, Get Better” program to promote HRPP excellence

Visit Highlights

DON HRPP staff conducted a total of 14 site assessments, assist visits, and courtesy visits in 2024. Visits and reports have become more streamlined while still offering beneficial guidance, efficiency, and support to the command HRPP.

Key Visit Findings:

- Common strengths and weaknesses identified
- Areas of improvement and recommendations
- Best practices and successes observed

Conducting visits is a vital component of DON HRPP that demonstrates our commitment to support commands by offering subject matter expertise and providing guidance to help address challenges, potential issues, or deficiencies before they become a major concern.

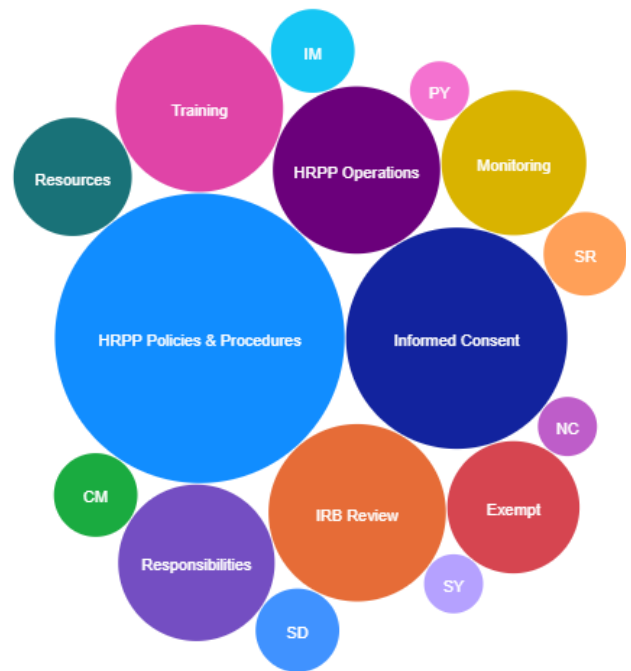
Assist Visit Questionnaire

DON HRPP conducts assist visits to provide targeted support. To tailor these visits to the needs of each command, a questionnaire was created to gather information and input for an impending visit including a preference to meet with the command leadership, training needs, and topics for discussion. This approach enables us to provide customized support and address specific challenges to enhance success of the HRPP.

CLaSS Launch

The DON HRPP “Command Learn and Share Series (CLaSS)” debuted on 14 November 2024 as a virtual session. A published study, “Suicide risk communication and intervention preferences for veterans and service members” was discussed in the context of key HRPP considerations. The inaugural CLaSS was a success and the next session will be announced soon.

Required or Recommended Actions of Visit Findings by Category



Note. CM = Communications; IM = Institutional Review Board (IRB) Membership; NC = Noncompliance; PY = Privacy; SD = Study Documentation; SR = Scientific Review; SY = Survey

SECNAVINST 3900.39 Revision

DON HRPP staff and command personnel provided feedback for consideration to update the SECNAVINST 3900.39E CH-1. Comments have been reviewed and incorporated, as appropriate, into a newly drafted SECNAVINST 3900.39F.

Get Real, Get Better

Under the leadership of CDR F. J. Haran, DON HRPP has embraced the Get Real, Get Better (GRGB) mindset. The GRGB approach emphasizes the importance of self-assessment, self-correction, and a culture of continuous learning. In 2024, DON HRPP illustrated this by demonstrating the following tactics.

- Concise email communication
- Concise visit summaries and reports
- More concise presentations
- Streamlining internal processes

PRIM&R Annual Conference

DON HRPP Director, CDR F. J. Haran, presented at the 2024 Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) Annual Conference in Seattle, WA as part of the Department of Defense (DoD) panel discussion, “A Conversation with DoD: Knowledge of the U.S. Military Research Context,” alongside representatives from the Army Human Research Protections Office (AHRPO), the Department of the Air Force Component Office of Human Research Protections (DAF COHRP), and the United States Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC). The session addressed local research context consideration for inclusion of personnel affiliated with the DoD and presented views of DoD HRP professionals in the context of an organization which supports research with efficiency.



Photo of DoD panel participants (left to right): CDR F. J. Haran, Ph.D. (DON HRPP), Martha Alvarado, CIP (AHRPO), Doug Grafel (DAF COHRP), and Andrea Kline, MS, CIP (USAMRDC).

Networking Social

DON HRPP was elated by the successful no-host social held in Seattle, WA that brought together over 45 professionals from DON HRPP, Navy commands, and other components. The evening offered the opportunity for relaxed conversation and delicious food that fostered collaboration and connections among those working in the HRPP community.



DON HRPP Spotlight



Katy Prendergast is a Compliance Specialist and Training and Education Specialist for the Office of Naval Research (ONR), Warfighter Performance, Research Protections Division (RPD). In this role, Katy provides subject matter expertise to the DON HRPP and ONR RPD for human research protection programs at the Systems Commands, operational forces, training commands, and for DON-supported research. Katy has nearly 20 years of experience in various aspects of human subjects research. Prior to working with DON HRPP, she worked at AbbVie as a clinical trial budget builder and training and education specialist regarding the rules and regulations surrounding clinical trial budgeting. Prior to that, she worked at both Northwestern University and the University of Chicago in cardiology/cardiac surgery and clinical trial administration. She earned her Master's Degree in Clinical Research and Regulatory Administration from Northwestern University.

Katy joined ONR in April 2021. Many of you may have already had a chance to meet and interact with her as she has been a member of the DON HRPP team on a number of visits. She serves as the point of contact for Naval Air and Warfare Center Training Systems Division, Navy Experimental Diving Unit, Naval Postgraduate School, Naval War College, and the United States Naval Academy. Katy is an integral part of the DON HRPP CLaSS, as well as the Navy's Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative training program.